

City of Woburn, Massachusetts

City Council
City Hall
10 Common Street
Woburn, MA 01801

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January 18, 2005

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
Section on Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Post Environmental Assessment
New England Transrail, LLC
Class III rail carrier and construction of a bulk re-load center
51 Eames Street, Wilmington, MA 01887

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

The Woburn City Council wishes to express its disagreement with the findings of the recent Post Environmental Assessment released December 22, 2004 regarding New England Transrail's petition for construction of a rail carrier and bulk re-load center. It is difficult for the City Council to imagine why the Surface Transportation Board, in light of such substantial concern and opposition, did not require a full Environmental Impact Statement process.

The City Council finds that the final recommended mitigation measures do not fully address the concerns raised in letters dated August 17, 2004 from the Woburn City Council and September 4, 2004 from our City Solicitor. Without further environmental investigation in conjunction with the EPA's superfund study on adjacent areas we fear that the premature, re-use of the Olin property could be detrimental to efforts to remediate the site and to the protection of our water resources along the Aberjona River Basin. Furthermore, the proposed onsite traffic control measures are insufficient to regulate heavy trucking along a residential section of Route 38 in Woburn.

Finally, it appears that the standard used by your board to dismiss environmental justice issues concerned demographic data from the 2000 Federal Census. It is the City Council's judgment that negative environmental impacts from industrial uses do not

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball

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discriminate along socio-economic lines. We are all affected by industrial nuisance and pollutants regardless of our race or income level. In our opinion, it is an *environmental injustice* to place a waste rail and reload facility along the Woburn-Wilmington border given that both communities have suffered from substantial industrial contamination in past years.

The Council urges your board to reconsider your decision to forego a full Environmental Impact Statement process. Our communities deserve no less.

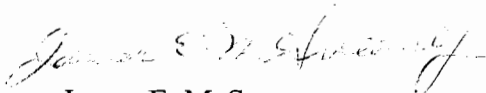
Sincerely,



Paul A. Medeiros
City Council President
Alderman, Ward 5

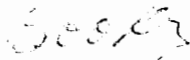


Paul J. Denaro
Alderman-at-Large

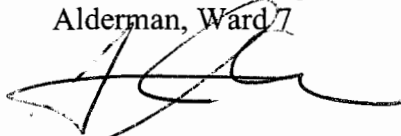


James E. McSweeney
Alderman, Ward 2

William N. Booker
Alderman, Ward 4



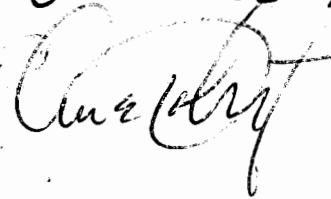
Thomas L. McLaughlin
Alderman, Ward 7



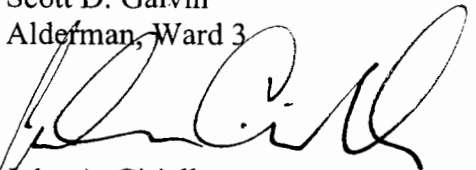
Joanna Gonsalves
Alderman-at-Large



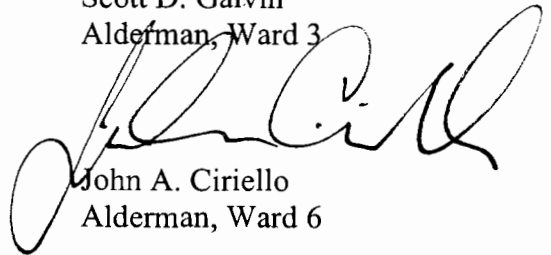
Charles E. Doherty
Alderman, Ward 1



Scott D. Galvin
Alderman, Ward 3



John A. Ciriello
Alderman, Ward 6



cc:

New England Transrail, LLC (843 Red Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666)
The Honorable Edward Kennedy, US Senate
The Honorable John Kerry, US Senate
The Honorable John Tierney, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Edward Markey, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Bruce Tarr, Mass. State Senate
The Honorable Robert Havern, Mass. State Senate
The Honorable James Miceli, Mass. House of Representative
The Honorable Charles Murphy, Mass House of Representative
The Honorable Patrick Natale, Mass House of Representative
The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder
The Wilmington Board of Selectman
Kathy Barry, President, Woburn-Wilmington Collaborative (14 Powder House Circle)
Mayor John C. Curran
Michael Caira, Wilmington Town Manager